

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~An extermination device, comprising a holder and a trigger mechanism, the holder being configured to hold an expanded resilient ring and the extermination device being configured to release the resilient ring, such that it contracts around a pest, when the trigger mechanism is actuated by the pest~~ An extermination device, comprising a holder and a trigger mechanism, the holder being configured to hold an expanded resilient ring, wherein the extermination device is configured to release the resilient ring free of the extermination device such that it contracts around a pest when the trigger mechanism is actuated by the pest, thereby exterminating the pest.

2. (ORIGINAL) An extermination device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holder is tubular and is open at a first end and closed at a second end.

3. (CANCELED)

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An extermination device as claimed in ~~claim 3~~ claim 2, wherein the trigger mechanism is located ~~entirely~~ within the holder.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An extermination device as claimed in ~~claim 3 or 4~~ claim 4, wherein a bait or attractant is placed such that the trigger mechanism is between the first end and the bait or attractant.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An extermination device as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, including a firing member, wherein the holder is configured to hold the resilient ring in a release position and the firing member is biased towards the release position, and wherein the firing member and trigger mechanism are arranged such that the firing member is released from a cocked position and forces the resilient ring off the holder, when the trigger mechanism is actuated.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An extermination device as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the resilient ring is made from natural or synthetic rubber.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An extermination device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein the resilient ring is made from a composite material.

11. (CANCELED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An extermination device as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein a dimension of an opening of the holder is in the range 25 to 40 mm.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An extermination device as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein a dimension of an opening of the holder is in the range 60 to 100 mm.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An extermination device as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the holder is configured to hold a plurality of expanded resilient rings and to hold a first one of the expanded resilient rings at a release position, and the extermination device is configured to release the first one of the plurality of expanded resilient rings when the trigger mechanism is actuated and to move a second one of the expanded resilient rings to the release position when the first one of the expanded resilient rings is released from the release position.

15. (CANCELED)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An extermination device as claimed in ~~claim 5~~ claim 10, further comprising a biasing means configured to apply a force to the second one of the resilient rings, towards the release position.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An extermination device as claimed in ~~claim 6~~ claim 16, wherein the biasing means is coupled to the trigger mechanism.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An extermination device as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, configured to release the resilient ring, such that it contracts around the neck of the pest.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A method of extermination a pest, comprising the steps of:~~
~~expanding a resilient ring; and~~
~~releasing the resilient ring onto a pest when the resilient ring is located around the pest~~

A method of exterminating a pest, comprising the steps of:

holding an expanded resilient ring on a holder; and
releasing the resilient ring free of the holder such that it contracts around a pest
when a trigger mechanism is actuated by the pest, thereby exterminating the pest.

20. (CANCELED)

21. (CANCELED)

22 (CANCELED)

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~claim 22~~ claim 14, further comprising the step of placing a bait or attractant in the holder such that the trigger mechanism is between the first end and the bait or attractant.

24. (CANCELED)

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 20 to 24~~ claim 14, wherein the step of holding the expanded resilient ring comprises holding a plurality of

expanded resilient rings, and the step of releasing the resilient ring comprises releasing one of the plurality of expanded resilient rings.

26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the step of holding the expanded resilient ring comprises holding a first one of the plurality of the expanded resilient rings at a release position, the method further comprising the step of moving a second one of the expanded resilient rings to the release position when the first one of the expanded resilient rings is released.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 19 to 26~~ claim 14, using the extermination device of ~~any one of claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1.

28. (ORIGINAL) A loading device having a tapering body adapted to allow a resilient ring to be expanded from the narrow end to the wide end of the tapering body, wherein the wide end includes a formation adapted to engage with a holder of an extermination device.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A loading device as claimed in claim 28 in combination with an extermination device of ~~any one of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1.

30. (CANCELED)